

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium having a substrate, a magnetic interlayer and a layer of magnetic recording material thereon, the magnetic recording material comprising an initial paramagnetic layer and a final recording layer ~~a plurality of bilayers having Cobalt and a noble metal.~~

Claim 2 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the noble metal is palladium.

Claim 3 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

Claim 4 (cancel)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1 4, wherein the initial paramagnetic layer comprises a Cobalt alloy having a thickness of about 0.9 Å and a noble metal layer having a thickness of about 1nm.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1 4, wherein the final recording layer comprises a Cobalt alloy having a thickness of about 2-6 Å and a noble metal layer having a thickness about 1nm.

Claim 7 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the final recording layer is further comprised of a laminated structure such that the final recording layer includes about 8-20 alternating layers of the Cobalt alloy and the noble metal.

Claim 8 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 7, wherein the final recording layer comprises 15 alternating layers of the Cobalt alloy and the noble metal.

Claim 9 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the final recording layer comprises a Cobalt alloy having a thickness of about 2-6 Å and a noble metal layer having a thickness about 1nm.

Claim 10 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the initial paramagnetic layer is further comprised of a laminated structure such the initial paramagnetic layer includes about 1-3 alternating layers of the Cobalt alloy and the noble metal.

Claim 11 (original): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the Cobalt alloy is comprised of Cobalt and one or more of the group consisting of boron, chromium, tantalum, francium, platinum, tungsten, manganese, molybdenum, ruthenium, silicon, nickel, copper, or gold.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the Cobalt alloy is comprised of CoCr<sub>40</sub> ~~Cobalt and chromium-40~~.

Claim 13 (original): A magnetic recording medium comprising:

a substrate;

a soft magnetic underlayer;

a paramagnetic layer; and

a perpendicular recording material including alternating layers of a Cobalt alloy and a noble metal.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium comprising:

a substrate;

a soft magnetic underlayer; and

a graded magnetic recording material including alternating layers of an initial paramagnetic a Cobalt alloy and a perpendicular recording material having a noble metal.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the graded magnetic material comprises:

the an initial paramagnetic layer having 1-3 layers of the Cobalt alloy, each Cobalt alloy layer having a thickness of about 0.9 Å and each noble metal layer having a thickness of about 1 nm; and

the an final perpendicular recording material having 8-20 layers of the Cobalt alloy, each Cobalt alloy layer having a thickness of about 2-6 Å and each noble metal layer having a thickness of about 1 nm.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the Cobalt alloy is further comprised of CoCr<sub>40</sub> ~~Cobalt and chromium-40~~.

Claim 17 (original): A magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the Cobalt alloy is further comprised of Cobalt and boron, chromium, tantalum, francium, platinum, tungsten, manganese, molybdenum, ruthenium, silicon, nickel, copper, or gold.

Claim 18 (original): A magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 16 or 17, wherein the noble metal is palladium.

Claim 19 (original): A magnetic recording medium as recited in claim 16 or 17, wherein the noble metal is platinum.